



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Medicine Bow – Routt  
National Forests and Thunder  
Basin National Grassland

Brush Creek/Hayden District  
South Hwy 130  
PO Box 249  
Saratoga, WY 82331-0249  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr>

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File Code: 1950/2360

Date: December 12, 2013

Dear Interested Party,

The Brush Creek-Hayden Ranger (BCH) District of the Routt National Forest welcomes your comments on the *Divide Peak Habitat Improvement Project* proposal. The Analysis Area (AA) is located in Carbon County, Wyoming. The legal description is T14N R85W Sections 5- 8, T14N R86W Sections 1- 6, 8-12, 14, 15, T15N R85W Sections 6, 7, 17-20, 28-33, T15N R86W, T15N R87W Sections 1-7, 9-17, 20-27, 35, 36, T16N R.86W Sections 26-36, & T16N R87W Sections 14, 15, 21-36. The AA encompasses approximately 57,892 acres, including 55,884 acres of National Forest System lands (96.5%) and 2,008 acres (3.5%) of non-NFS lands. There are no proposed actions associated with non-NFS lands.

The purpose of this project is to improve wildlife habitat and lower fuel loads to reduce fire hazards. The age distribution of the fire-adapted, shrubland and mixed conifer/aspen plant communities in the Divide Peak area has become highly uniform. There is a need to re-introduce fire through prescribed burns to improve age class distribution. This will, in turn, improve wildlife habitat diversity and reduce surface fuel loading and arrangement, and thus future fire hazard. A Notice of Proposed Action has been developed that describes the project in detail. It is available on-line at: [http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa\\_project\\_exp.php?project=43190](http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=43190) or by contacting Mick Hood, District FMO, USDA Forest Service, 2171 S HWY 130, PO Box 249, Saratoga, WY 82331, (307) 326-2517, [mhood@fs.fed.us](mailto:mhood@fs.fed.us).

My preliminary assessment is that this proposal falls within a category of actions per 36 CFR 220 that are excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS as there are no extraordinary circumstances that would preclude use of the category 36 CFR 220.6(e)(6) – *Timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than 1 mile of low standard road construction.*

### How to Comment and Timeframe

This comment period coincides with public scoping and will be the only comment opportunity offered on this project (see 36 CFR 215.5 and 215.6). This comment period is intended to provide those interested in or affected by this proposal an opportunity to comment on the proposed action before the Responsible Official makes a decision.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of a notice in the Rawlins Daily Times. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.



Written comments must be submitted via mail, fax, electronically, or in person (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays) to: Mick Hood, District FMO, USDA Forest Service, 2171 S HWY 130, PO Box 249, Saratoga, WY 82331. Electronic comments including attachments can be submitted to: [comments-rm-medicine-bow-routt-brush-creek-hayden@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-rm-medicine-bow-routt-brush-creek-hayden@fs.fed.us). Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 215.6.

To request further information, please contact Mick Hood, District FMO, USDA Forest Service, 2171 S HWY 130, PO Box 249, Saratoga, WY 82331, (307) 326-2517, [mhood@fs.fed.us](mailto:mhood@fs.fed.us).

Sincerely,

*/s/ Melanie B. Fullman*  
MELANIE B FULLMAN  
District Ranger

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